

COURSE OUTLINE

**Theatre Arts 103 (C-ID Number: THTR 151)  
Acting Fundamentals I (C-ID Title: Acting I)**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Theatre Arts 103 is a beginning acting class for theatre majors. Through individual and group exercises, improvisation, theatre games, monologue and scene study, the actor's voice, body, and imagination are developed. Written assignments include the break down and analysis of scripts and live theatre performances. Acting skills are practiced through rehearsal and performance of monologues and scenes.

Total Lecture/Demonstration Units: 2.0

Total Laboratory Units: 1.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture/Demonstration Hours: 32.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 80.0**

Prerequisite: None.

Note: During the semester, students are expected to attend professional and Glendale Community College Theatre Arts Department productions as part of the learning process.

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 4; Math 1.

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. define terminology of dramatic structure, physical stage, and acting fundamentals;
2. break down and analyze scripts;
3. apply the basic fundamentals of acting to scenes and monologues;
4. define a warm-up and preparation for acting in front of an audience;
5. evaluate amateur and professional theatre productions.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 80**

A. Developing the Voice	Lecture 5 hours
1. Examining breathing habits	Lab 10 hours
2. Connecting sound production to the breath	
3. Diction	
B. Training the Body	Lecture 5 hours
1. Examining physical tension	Lab 8 hours
2. Alignment studies	
3. Relaxation techniques	
4. Concentration	
C. Freeing the Imagination	Lecture 5 hours
1. Improvisation	Lab 10 hours
2. Theatre games	
3. Sense memory	
4. Individual exercises	
5. Substitution	
6. Observation	
D. Analyzing and Breaking Down the Script	Lecture 10 hours
1. Choosing monologues and scenes	Lab 5 hours
2. Analyzing text	
a. Theme	
b. Conflict	
c. Historical context	
3. Scene and monologue breakdown	
a. Beats	
b. Actions	
E. Creating a Character	Lecture 5 hours
1. Objective	
a. Tactics	
b. Obstacles	
c. Subtext	
2. Identifying given circumstances	
3. Character biography	
4. Research	
F. Rehearsing and Performing	Lecture 2 hours
1. Memorization techniques	Lab 15 hours
2. Rehearsal etiquette	
a. Working with scene partners	
b. Safety	

3. Rehearsal techniques
  - a. Self discipline
  - b. Preparation
  - c. Blocking
  - d. Defining the physical environment
  - e. Application of props
  - f. Costumes
  - g. Decorum and style demands of the play
4. Performing
  - a. Application of relaxation techniques
  - b. Self-evaluation
  - c. Observing and evaluating a performance
  - d. Accepting constructive criticism

**V. Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. lecture, discussion, demonstration, and application of basic acting skills;
2. instructor directed practice;
3. individual and group exercises and performances.

**VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

1. attendance of two professional or GCC Theatre Department productions;
2. written critique (e.g. play review of production);
3. written assignment (e.g. explain how theatre is both collaborative and interpretive);
4. written assignment (e.g. self-evaluation of performance, stage-fright);
5. written assignment (e.g. character biography).

**VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

1. written and oral evaluation of in-class performances;
3. midterm examination;
4. final examination.

**VIII. Textbooks**

Hagen, Uta. *Respect for Acting*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley Publishing, 2008. Print.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-10: 0470228482

Caldarone, Marina and Lloyd-Williams, Maggie. *Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Hollywood: Drama Publishers, 2004. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-89676-252-7

Hooks, E. *The Ultimate Scene and Monologue Sourcebook*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.  
New York: Back Stage Books, 2007. Print.  
13<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading. Level ISBN-10: 0823099490

Boleslavsky, Richard and Blair, Rhonda *Acting: The First Six Lessons*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.  
New York: Routledge Theatre Classics, 2010. Print.  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level ISBN 13: 978-1258011024

Gorman, Hugh. *The Keys to Acting*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt  
Publishing, 2012. Print.  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level ISBN-13: 978-0757587252

## **IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. identify and apply methods of releasing tension from the body;
2. identify given circumstances influencing a character in a play;
3. define basic acting terminology;
4. break down a scene into beats and actions;
5. identify and apply a character's objective;
6. develop a character from script to performance.